

Fort Monroe
DPTMS Installation Operations Center

Hurricane Preparedness Guide



The hurricane season in Virginia begins in June and ends in November.

The 2006 Atlantic hurricane season was not as active as forecasters predicted with 9 tropical storms and 5 hurricanes. During the 2006 hurricane season, Fort Monroe experienced flooding, wind damage and power outages from Tropical Depression Ernesto and two coastal Nor'easter storms.

Although storm predictions in 2006 fell short of anticipated levels, we should plan ahead and be prepared for the 2007 hurricane season. In 2006, even relatively small storms like Tropical Depression Ernesto and coastal Nor'easters caused significant problems and partial evacuations of Fort Monroe. Forecasters predict an active 2007 hurricane season with 17 named storms, 9 hurricanes and an above-average probability that a hurricane will make landfall in the United States.

The Fort Monroe Installation Operations Center, (IOC) monitors weather and coordinates with TRADOC, IMCOM-NE, Fort Lee, Fort Eustis, Langley AFB and civilian Emergency Operation Centers in Hampton Roads.

When a hurricane or adverse weather is projected to impact our area, the IOC will notify the Garrison Commander and storm preparations will be initiated.

The Garrison Commander in concert with the Senior Mission Commander will determine if an evacuation of Fort Monroe will be ordered.

Saffir-Simpson Scale

Hurricanes are classified into five categories based on their wind speed, central pressure and damage potential (see chart). All hurricanes are dangerous but Category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes.

Scale Number (Category)	Sustained Winds (MPH)	Damage	Storm Surge
1	74-95	Minimal: Unanchored mobile homes, vegetation, and signs.	4-5 feet
2	96-110	Moderate: All mobile homes, roofs small, crafts, flooding.	6-8 feet
3	111-130	Extensive: Small buildings, low-lying roads cut off.	9-12 feet
4	131-155	Extreme: Roofs destroyed, trees down, roads cut off, mobile homes destroyed. Beach homes flooded.	13-18 feet
5	More than 155	Catastrophic: Most buildings destroyed. Vegetation destroyed. Major roads cut off. Homes flooded.	Greater than 18 feet



Ft Monroe, Hurricane Isabel Sept 2003

Hurricane Isabel was only a Category I storm on the Saffir-Simpson scale when it made landfall and still produced considerable flooding and wind damage to homes and buildings on Fort Monroe.

Fort Monroe uses the following media to update installation residents and families:

- The Fort Monroe website contains a link to Adverse Weather Emergency Procedures and displays post status.
<http://monroeapps.monroe.army.mil/monroe/sites/local/>
- The Public Affairs Office provides installation status information to local news media.
- The Fort Monroe Information Line 788-6318 provides post status and instructions.
- The Fort Monroe Command Channel (47) provides post status and information.
- The Fort Monroe Communicator (Mass Notification System) provides telephone and e-mail notifications to command and tenant organizations.
- Town Hall meetings, Big Voice or the marquee at the front gate provides post information.

Fort Monroe, Nor'easter Oct 2006



Fort Monroe Adverse Weather Emergency Procedures

The geographical location of Fort Monroe makes it subject to severe weather phenomena throughout the year. Hurricanes, Nor'easters, tornadoes and other forms of severe weather may endanger life, destroy property and cause disruption of normal operations.

The hurricane season officially starts in June and ends in November each year. All personnel should begin preparation each year by reading the enclosed hurricane checklist, obtaining the recommended supplies and preparing to execute the procedures outlined.

During Adverse Weather the Public Affairs Office will advise you and your family of necessary actions to be taken.

Assistance or clarification on any of the information provided can be obtained by calling the Installation Operations Center at 788-6304.

Hurricane Weather Checklist

Remember that electrical, telephone and water service failures are the norm rather than the exception during hurricanes. Have your emergency equipment and supplies ready and available. At night, keep a flashlight near you at all times.

DO NOT PANIC. The possibility of injury is remote if you have made thorough preparations and follow the instructions below. Remember to stay calm; stay inside your home or quarters (after you have secured items outside that may become flying hazards), or the shelter if you have been evacuated to one, and maintain control of your children.



BEFORE THE STORM

Ensure the following emergency supplies are on hand:

Transistor (battery operated) radio with extra batteries.

Flashlights with extra batteries (use flashlights; "DO NOT USE CANDLES OR KEROSENE LANTERNS").

Bottled water and canned goods that can be prepared without cooking and needing no refrigeration (at least 3-day supply).

First aid kit, special medicines and drugs.

Rubber gloves or leather gloves.

SECURITY AND PREPARATION MEASURES

Secure your valuables and important papers and be prepared to take them with you (wrap or place in waterproof container or plastic zip lock freezer bags).

Be prepared to lock and secure your quarters.

Fill the family car gas tank with gasoline.

Secure materials around your quarters which may become flying missiles (i.e., signs, mailboxes, trashcans, lawn furniture, storage/utility buildings, etc.).

Secure windows, screens and shutters.

Fort Monroe is a flood zone. If you have anything you value stored in the basement, move it to a higher elevation in the house.

Obtain information on current conditions by:

RADIO

Hampton:	WWDE	FM 101
Newport News:	WTJZ	AM 1270
	WNVZ	FM 104.5
	WROX	FM 96.1
	WVBW	FM 92.9
	WCDG	FM 92.1
Norfolk:	WNIS	AM 790
	WJOI	AM 1230
	WTAR	AM 850
	WPCE	AM 1400
	WHRO	FM 90.3
	WHRV	FM 89.5
	WOWI	FM 103
	WAFX	FM 106.9
Virginia Beach:	WGH	AM 1310
	WPTE	FM 94.9
Gloucester:	WXGM	AM 1420
Portsmouth:	WKUS	FM 105.3
York County:	WXEZ	FM 94.1

Television

Hampton:	WVEC	TV 13 (ABC)
Norfolk:	WTKR	TV 3 (CBS)
Portsmouth:	WAVY	TV 10 (NBC)

Contact the MP Desk at 788-2238/2239 for assistance in an emergency situation.

Unless notified to evacuate, remain in your quarters.

Stay indoors (downstairs bathroom or small interior room if possible during storm), keep your children with you. Stay away from windows and stay tuned to local radio/TV when sheltering. You may be told to evacuate in the event that severe flooding is forecast.

Use extreme caution when opening doors and windows.

Extinguish all open flames.

Do not handle electrical equipment when damp or wet. Do Not attempt to secure down power lines. If able, notify Dominion Virginia Power 1-888-667-3000 and the Fire Department 788-2422.

BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE YOUR QUARTERS ON ORDER

Prepare for possible off post evacuation, if you choose, out of the local area 90-150 miles inland. Unless otherwise notified, you should remain in your quarters and take all necessary steps to safeguard life and protect property.

Personnel and families may be asked to evacuate out of the local area to shelters at Fort Lee, VA, at which time you will be instructed to secure your quarters or homes and evacuate.

Personnel leaving the Fort Monroe area and traveling inland, should travel west on Interstate 64 towards Richmond. If you are traveling to Fort Lee, you can take bypass 295 south, at Richmond, towards Hopewell then exit at the Fort Lee exit.

Travel with care, leave early (72-48 hours prior to impact) and follow recommended routes.

Stay away from low lying areas. Avoid obstructions, wires, trees, etc.

Be wary of driving in shallow water. Light reflection may cause depth of the water to be deceiving, and a relatively light current will be enough to sweep your vehicle away.

Families or individuals unable to evacuate to Fort Lee will call the Military Police, 788-2238/2239.

Installation Operations Center, Public Affairs Office and the Military Police will notify family members before an actual evacuation begins.

If evacuating to Fort Lee, personal luggage is restricted to one suitcase per family (inside the shelter). Arrangement for pets must be made if evacuating quarters. (See kennels and boarding at Fort Lee).

NOTE: PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE SHELTERS AT FORT LEE, (OR MOST PUBLIC SHELTERS) THEY MUST EVACUATE WITH YOU, OR YOU CAN ARRANGE ALTERNATE SHELTER OUT OF THE LOCAL AREA. See the attached listing of boarding facilities in the Fort Lee local area. *"This listing is being provided for informational purposes only. No endorsement is stated or implied."*

SUGGESTED ITEMS TO BRING ALONG TO A SHELTER

Medications, medical supplies and sanitary items (both prescription and over-the-counter).

Blankets, pillows, sleeping bags and towels.

Games, books and toys (minimal).

Flashlight and battery operated radio with extra batteries.

Toiletries and Handi-wipes.

First Aid Kit.

Credit card, ATM/Debit card and cash.

Infant bottles, formula, food and diapers (disposable).

Special items for children, elderly and disabled.

Provisions for one meal (food not requiring heating or refrigeration).

Each Fort Monroe resident evacuating to Fort Lee will be fed three meals a day until the order to return to Fort Monroe is given.

PLEASE NOTE: Personal luggage is restricted to one suitcase per family inside the Fort Lee shelter due to limited space.

WHAT TO DO AT THE FORT LEE SHELTER

If you travel to Fort Lee, report to the Central Processing Point, Memorial Chapel, Building 10800. They will tell you what shelter or building to go to and how to get there. Check in at the registration desk upon entering the building. If you are able, please volunteer to assist the shelter workers in any way possible. Representatives from Fort Lee Kenner Army Health Clinic, Fort Monroe Chaplain's office, and Staff Judge Advocate will be available to assist with your needs.

Parents are responsible for the behavior of their children. Do not allow them to be someone else's problem. Talk to your children and help them understand what is happening.

The shelter staff (shelter commander/manager for on-base shelters) will be responsible for the operation of the shelter. Follow their directions/instructions at all times.

SHELTERING AT HOME

If an evacuation has not been ordered and you remain in your quarters, keep this in mind. After most hurricanes, utilities such as water, sewer, electricity, phones and gas service may be unavailable for days, weeks, or even months in some cases. Because of downed telephone and electrical lines, debris clogged roads and low or no water pressure; the fire department may not be able to respond effectively, if at all. Below are some things you should do to prepare for the storm and its' aftermath.

- * Have bottled sodas and water, and a manual can opener.
- * Special needs persons\children need to be identified to ACS as soon as possible.
- * Secure loose items outside the house or quarters.
- * Fill your bathtub with water. If you have a pool, leave it full and over-chlorinate the water. Have some bottled water on hand.
- * Top off your car's fuel tank early in case you have to evacuate or are unable to get gas, as the loss of electrical power shuts down gas stations.
- * Water: Water purification tablets, chlorine or iodine. They are inexpensive and available at most sporting good stores, and some drug stores. Follow the directions on the package. Usually one tablet is enough for one quart of water. Double the dose for cloudy water, but follow the directions.
- * Food: Non-perishable, needing little or no cooking; high nutrition type. Some dietary foods are needed if a diabetic person is sheltering.
- * Extra supplies of any needed medicines should be on hand.
- * A propane grill or camp stove, or canned heat burner and fuel as a source of heat for cooking.

(Do not use gasoline fueled stove or burners)

DURING THE STORM

Stay away from windows. The safest place in a house (without a basement) is in an interior room with no windows. Bathrooms or closets are often the safest place to be. Beware of sheltering in basements if flooding is a possibility.

Avoid going outside in the EYE of the storm. When the eye of a hurricane passes overhead you may think the storm is over. The sun may come out and it may appear to be calm or a normal beautiful day; however, **DO NOT GO OUTSIDE!** This is the eye of the storm passing over, and hurricane or strong winds will resume shortly, but in the opposite direction.

AFTER THE STORM

Stay tuned to your local radio or television station. They will keep you informed about the storm and when it has passed; however, "REMAIN IN YOUR HOME UNTIL THE AUTHORITIES (FIRE DEPARTMENT OR MILITARY POLICE) INFORM YOU IT IS SAFE TO GO OUT. DOWNED POWER LINES AND OTHER DANGEROUS DEBRIS MAY PRESENT A HAZARD TO YOU OR YOUR FAMILY."

"FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS CONTACT THE FORT MONROE INSTALLATION OPERATIONS CENTER, 788-6304/6003."

ALL CLEAR

Make certain that the hurricane has definitely passed and "All Clear" has been declared. If the hurricane passes directly over you, the eye of the hurricane will also pass, as the eye passes, winds, sometimes with greater force, will return from the opposite direction. The "All Clear" will be announced by the MPs or Fire Department by means of a Public Address system.

Stay indoors and keep your children/pets with you until you are sure that there is no danger from downed electrical wires, broken glass and other debris.

Don't drive unless you absolutely have to. If you must travel, drive cautiously and be alert to hazards such as debris, downed electrical wires, blocked roads and flooded areas.

If power has gone off for any significant time, check food for possible spoilage.

Be alert to help prevent fires. Broken water mains and low water pressure will make fighting any fires difficult, if not impossible.

Stay away from damaged or disaster areas.

In government housing, if the telephones are working report any damage or safety hazards to the Directorate of Public Works, 788-4228 or Military Police, 788-2238.



KENNELS & BOARDING

Animal Care Associates (804) 520-2273
2403 Boulevard
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Brandywine Kennels (804) 732-5431
12117 Halifax Road
Petersburg, VA 23805

Chesdin Animal Hospital (804) 732-6420
25026 Ferndale Road
Petersburg, VA 23803

Conrecode Kennels (804) 733-3661
2408 River Road
Prince George, VA 23875

Hopewell Animal Hospital (804) 458-9521
3806 Oak lawn Boulevard
Hopewell, VA 23860

Swift Creek Kennels (804) 526-0202
17700 Branders Bridge Road
Colonial Heights, VA 23834

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Adverse Weather Emergency Numbers

Fort Monroe

Installation Operations Center (IOC)	(757) 788-6304
Duty Officer (24 Hour contact Blackberry)	(757) 277-8278
Military Police	(757) 788-2238
Fire Department	(757) 788-2422
Information Line	(757) 788-6318
DPW Service Order Desk	(757) 788-4228
Army Community Service (ACS)	(757) 788-3878
TRADOC EOC	(757) 788-2256
Dominion Power	(888) 667-3000

Fort Lee

Army Community Service (ACS)	(804) 734-6388
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Hurricane Information Websites

- <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/resources/hurricaneEvacuation1.pdf>
- <http://www.vaemergency.com/>
- http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/0,1082,0_587_,00.html
- http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/hurricane_default.asp
- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>
- http://www.wavy.com/Global/category.asp?C=2397&nav=menu45_3
- <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/forecast/MapClick.php?CityName=Fort+Monroe&state=VA&site=AKQ>

